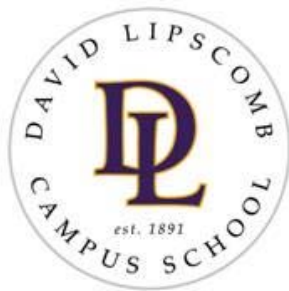


Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



David Lipscomb Elementary
School
4517 Granny White Pike
Nashville, TN 37204
(615)966-1783

www.dlcs.lipscomb.edu



1-800-734-3619
www.tdec.net/oea/tp3

David Lipscomb Elementary Reduces Waste

THE MEMBER

David Lipscomb Elementary School (PK-4th-grade) enrolls approximately 380 students. The school is a private, Christian institution with 46 members of the faculty and staff. It is part of the Campus School system of Lipscomb University, located in Nashville, TN.

THE STORY

Reducing waste has long been standard practice at Lipscomb. Recycling efforts began at David Lipscomb when 2 faculty members carried student-collected newspapers to another neighborhood's recycle center. Now a newspaper recycle bin is located in the north parking lot of our campus, and a cardboard/ steel cans/ paper/ plastic receptacle is located in the south parking lot. These bins serve our school and are open to the public 24 hours everyday.

Kindergarteners remove the pull-tabs from cans and send them to the local Ronald McDonald House. Proceeds from can recycling are donated to Monarch Watch for tags to mark butterflies and to help improve the economic status of Mexican families living near the Monarch overwintering sites. Kindergarteners are also learning to reuse newspaper as mulch in the butterfly garden.

Used printer ink jets and old cell phones are collected on campus; old computers and used school furniture have been contributed to inner city programs; gently-used school supplies are sent to Honduras or Mexico each year; re-use of school uniforms is made possible by a yearly consignment sale. Proceeds of uniform sales are often donated back to the school's Good Samaritan Fund for needy families.

Kindergarten and 1st grade piloted a new composting program in spring 2008. From the test, we calculated our food waste would be 30 gallons/day. We are investigating ways to use composted food waste in the outdoor classroom gardens.

THE SUCCESS

Locating the newspaper and mixed recyclables bins in our parking lots has greatly increased school and community recycling. Our inter-disciplinary Monarch butterfly

curriculum has so much interest and support that aluminum can and pop-top collections are very successful.

Julie Berbiglia, from *Metro Beautification and Environment Commission*, provided recycling education to first-graders. Third-graders gained eye-opening experience when they visited the downtown recycle center.

The success of adding plastic recycling this year inspired the Lipscomb Middle and High Schools, as well as the University, to start recycling plastics in their buildings.

The elementary school cafeteria is reducing waste by replacing Styrofoam and paper plates with reusable plastic ware and washable divided trays. Individual foil packets of ketchup and mustard have been replaced with bottled condiments. The cardboard cartons from food deliveries are now being recycled. Washable dishes are now used in the faculty workroom to reduce disposable trash.

One thousand reusable tote bags made of 100% recycled materials have recently been made available to school families to reduce countless numbers of plastic bags.

Lipscomb Elementary School has won the Metro Beautification Award and the Eastman Good Sports Always Recycle Award three times each. Award monies have been used to fund garden projects and further recycling education.

POLLUTION PREVENTED

During the 2007-08 school year, 153 pounds of aluminum has been recycled and \$56.61 donated to Monarch Watch. To date, 5000 lbs. of newspaper have been collected, with proceeds going for reforestation of Monarch wintering sites in Mexico.

Since January 2008 approximately 10,000 lbs. of mixed recyclables have been kept out of the landfill.

15 large printer cartridges and 5 lbs. of small ink cartridges have been recycled this year.

Through our waste reduction and education program, Lipscomb Elementary is developing responsible environmental citizens for the future.

April 2008